

Remarks

1. The Examiner's reconsideration of the application is urged in view of the amendments above and comments which follow.

2. In the Office action, Claim 1-29 and 32-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Palovuori (US 2004/0233276A1) and further in view of Songer (US 5844619).

Each of these rejections is addressed as follows.

3. Amendments of claims

In claim 1, the words "being asynchronous" have been replaced by "having an undefined relative phase"; this amendment is based on the specification, page 6, lines 1 and 2.

Claims 24 and 37 have been amended in the same way as claim 1; the basis for this amendment is the same as the basis for the amendment of claim 1. In both claims 24 and 37, the reference to the "second sequence" in "with respect to the first and the second sequence" has been deleted.

4. Rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Amended claim 1 describes an imaging system for multiple view imaging comprising (for clarity purposes, references to an example given in the drawings have been added in italics):

at least a first and second video processing device, (*Fig. 3: element 42 in 2, 4, 6 respectively*),

each of the at least first and second video processing devices (42) being for displaying a video image on one or more display devices (10),

each video processing device (42) receiving at least a first sequence of image frames (*Fig. 4, a or L/R signal 16*) comprising:

at least a second sequence of image frames (*Fig. 4, a: LEFT*) and a third sequence of image frames (*Fig. 4, a: RIGHT*),

the at least second and third sequences (*a: LEFT and RIGHT*) of image frames being for generating at least first and second video streams (*Fig. 4, d, LEFT and RIGHT*) respectively,

and each video processing device outputting a fourth sequence of image frames (*d: 34*),

the fourth sequences of image frames (*d: 34*), being for generating at least one of the at least first or second video streams (*Fig. 4, d, LEFT and RIGHT*),

the fourth sequences of image frames (*d: 34*), from the at least first and second video processing devices (*42*) having an undefined relative phase with respect to the first sequence of video frames (*Fig. 4, a*),

wherein the imaging system is adapted to utilize a linking signal (*18*) for synchronising images displayed by at least one of the at least the first and second video processing devices on the display device.

Palovuori discloses an apparatus for projecting a multichannel image. According to the embodiment of Fig. 1 and depending on the interpretation, given to the different elements, the apparatus comprises:

a decoder C (=a video processing device), receiving a stereo video signal SS (= first sequence of image frames) comprising image signals SL (=second sequence of image frames), intended for the left eye and image signals SR (=third sequence of image frames), intended for the right eye, or

two "video processing" devices, the projectors L and R, each projector receiving image signals SL and SR respectively.

According to the interpretation under a, the apparatus has only one single video processing device which constitutes already an important difference compared to the at least two processing devices of the apparatus of claim 1.

When the interpretation under b is followed, the projectors must be considered as video processing devices, which is not possible. In video processing devices, the input is a video signal and the output is also a video signal, whereby the output signal is a "processed" version of the input. However, a projector transforms

an input video signal directly in an image, which can then be seen by a viewer. On top of that, the sequence of image frames, received by each of the projectors L and R in Fig. 1, comprises only a single sequence of frames, the frames received by projector L being represented by SL and the frames received by projector R being represented by SR. The output of the projectors L and R is constituted by each time by a succession of images which cannot be compared with image frames of claim 1, which are in reality still video signals.

Whatever interpretation is chosen, the projection of the images in Palovuori is synchronized by the decoder C so that there is no undefined relative phase with respect to the first sequence of video frames (in reality, the projection is synchronized on signal SS, and by consequence also by signals SL or SR (see paragraph [0039]).

Amended claim 1 is in any case clearly not anticipated by Palovuori.

Songer discloses a flicker eliminating system for an interlaced video-display image. The system consists in a single processing device (75), receiving a video signal (a first sequence of image frames), consisting e.g. of a classical NTSC – signal, which means that the video signal comprises two image fields/frame. The output of the processing device is a video signal at a harmonically doubled horizontal scan-rate and a harmonically doubled vertical scan-rate (a fourth sequence of images).

Songer does not disclose:

- an imaging system for multiple view imaging,
- at least two video processing devices,
- a fourth sequence of image frames (the video output signal)) having an undefined relative phase with respect to the first sequence of video frames (the video input signal)
- a linking signal for synchronising images displayed by at least one of the at least the first and second video processing devices on the display device.

In the system according to Songer, the vertical scan rate is harmonically doubled, which means that with each image field of the input video signal

corresponds two image fields at the output; the relative phase between the output fields and the input fields is thus clearly defined.

Amended claim 1 is thus also clearly not anticipated by Songer.

A combination of the system of Palovuori with the system according to Songer cannot lead to the system of amended claim 1. Indeed, at least the feature referring to the undefined phase relationship between the video input frames and the video output frames is not disclosed in any of these references.

Amended claim 1 is thus also non-obvious over the prior art.

5. Rejection of claims 24 and 37 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 24 and 37 are independent claims which have been drafted along the same lines as new claim 1.

For the reasons, given above, these claims are thus also submitted to be novel and non-obvious.

6. Rejection of the other claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

All other claims are dependent on claims.

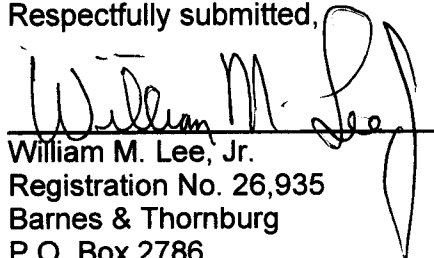
These dependent claims are thus also submitted to be novel and non-obvious over the prior art given their dependency.

Conclusion

Applicant submits that the claims are in condition for allowance, and such action is requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William M. Lee, Jr.", is written over a horizontal line.

William M. Lee, Jr.
Registration No. 26,935
Barnes & Thornburg
P.O. Box 2786
Chicago, Illinois 60690-2786
(312) 214-4800
(312) 759-5646 (fax)